REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 23-26 are active in the present application. Claims 19-22 have been cancelled. Claims 23-26 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. Claims 1-18 have been amended for clarity and to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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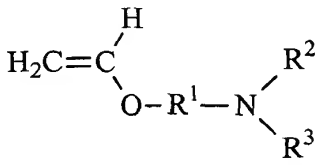
IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 19-22 (Cancelled).

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. (Amended) An antimicrobial copolymer, [obtainable] obtained by copolymerizing a vinyl ether of [the general] formula



where R^1 is a branched or unbranched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and

R^2 is H, and

R^3 is H or a branched or unbranched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,

with at least one aliphatically unsaturated monomer.

2. (Amended) [An] The antimicrobial polymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vinyl ether [used] comprises 3-aminopropyl vinyl ether.

3. (Amended) [An] The antimicrobial polymer as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein

the aliphatically unsaturated [monomers are] monomer is a methacrylic acid [compounds] compound.

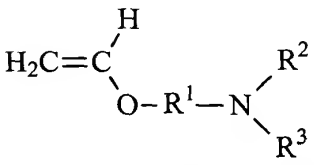
4. (Amended) [An] The antimicrobial polymer as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the aliphatically unsaturated [monomers are] monomer is an acrylic acid [compounds] compound.

5. (Amended) [An] The antimicrobial polymer as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the aliphatically unsaturated [monomers used are] monomer is methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, tert-butyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, tert-butyl acrylate, tert-butylaminoethyl esters, 2-diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-diethyl-aminoethyl vinyl ether, N-3-dimethylamino-propylmethacrylamide, 3-methacryloyl-aminopropyl-trimethylammonium chloride, 2-methacryloyloxyethyltrimethylammonium chloride or 2-methacryloyloxyethyltrimethylammonium methosulfate.

6. (Amended) [An] The antimicrobial polymer as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein

the copolymerization is carried out on a substrate.

7. (Amended) An antimicrobial coating of a substrate, wherein at least one vinyl ether [ethers] of [the general] formula



where R^1 is a branched or unbranched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and

R^2 and R^3 are H [II] or a branched or unbranched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, where R^2 and R^3 may be identical or different,

are copolymerized in a graft polymerization of a substrate.

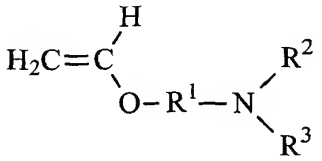
8. (Amended) [An] The antimicrobial coating as claimed in claim 7, wherein

the substrate is activated prior to the graft polymerization by UV radiation, plasma treatment, corona treatment, flame treatment, ozonization, electrical discharge or γ-radiation.

9. (Amended) [An] The antimicrobial coating as claimed in claim 7, wherein

the substrate is activated, prior to the graft polymerization, by UV radiation with a photoinitiator.

10. (Amended) A process for preparing an antimicrobial [copolymers] copolymer, which comprises copolymerizing a vinyl ether of [the general] formula



where R^1 is a branched or unbranched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,

R^2 is H, and

R^3 is H or a branched or unbranched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,

with at least one aliphatically saturated monomer.

11. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein

the vinyl ether [used] comprises 3-aminopropyl vinyl ether.

12. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10 [or 11], wherein

the aliphatically unsaturated [monomers are] monomer is a methacrylic acid [compounds] compound.

13. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10 [or 11], wherein

the aliphatically unsaturated [monomers are] monomer is an acrylic acid [compounds] compound.

14. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10 [or 11], wherein

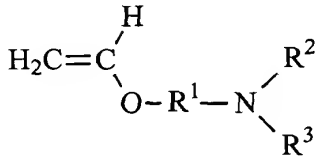
the aliphatically unsaturated [monomers used are] monomer is methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, tert-butyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, tert-butyl acrylate, tert-butylaminoethyl esters, 2-diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-diethylamino-ethyl vinyl ether, N-3-dimethylaminopropyl-methacrylamide, 3-methacryloylaminopropyltrimethylammonium chloride, 2-methacryloyloxyethyltrimethylammonium chloride or 2-methacryloyloxyethyltrimethylammonium methosulfate.

15. (Amended) The process as claimed in [any one of claims 10 to 14] claim 10, wherein

the copolymerization is carried out on a substrate.

16. (Amended) A process for preparing an antimicrobial coating of a substrate, [wh..ch] which comprises

copolymerizing at least one vinyl ether [ethers] of [the general] formula



where R^1 is a branched or unbranched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and

R^2 and R^3 are H or a branched or unbranched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, where R^2 and R^3 may be identical or different,

in a graft polymerization of a substrate.--

Claims 23-26 (New).